



Santa Barbara County  
Air Pollution Control District

# On the Air

## Teachers Help Students Care for our Earth Grants to 26 Teachers in 9 School Districts in Santa Barbara County

In March the Santa Barbara County Education Office awarded Care for our Earth grants to twenty-six teachers from nine county school districts as part of an initiative sponsored by the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, the Southern California Gas Company, and Pacific Gas & Electric Company. Mini-grants of \$200 each were awarded to 4th-12th grade teachers for projects with their students to save energy or reduce traffic and pollution.

Riccardo Magni, a biology and environmental science teacher at Pioneer Valley High School in Santa Maria and 2013 Santa Barbara County Teacher of the Year, gave the keynote address at the event, stressing the importance of environmental education. He remarked, "Even though environmental education is not in the California standards, it is important to teach it in all grades." He added, "I am a firm believer in preparing the kids in my class for the future. I know that my approach of using technology, field trips, and guest speakers has a definite, measurable impact on my students. I can tell because many of them go on to study the environment in college after taking my class."

Magni has done a range of air quality related projects with his students, and this year received a Care for our Earth grant for a



Photos by Willa Kveta Photography



*Lee Ann Knodel at Santa Barbara High School, will continue a partnership with Bici Centro to help students learn bike safety and repair, and appreciate bike riding.*



*As part of Linda Fimlaid's project titled "Power Savers to the Rescue" 7th graders at Vista de Las Cruces school in Gaviota will calculate energy use for computer equipment, and design a program to save energy.*



*Sixth grade classes at Monte Vista Elementary School in Santa Barbara will produce a weekly news program about current events and environmental topics, led by teacher Janis Spracher.*



*Laura Branch at Righetti High School in Santa Maria will teach students about ozone. High in the atmosphere ozone protects the earth from ultraviolet radiation; at ground level ozone is a key component of smog.*



*Lori Lee Collins, a 4th-5th grade teacher at Carpinteria Family School, will become certified as a League Cycling Instructor so she can teach Bike Skills classes to her students.*



*Riccardo Magni*

project to explore the impacts of acid rain on plants, and the link between air pollution and generation of acid rain.

For more information on the District's programs for teachers and schools, see <http://www.sbcapcd.org/teachers.htm>.

## Inside...

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## Reducing Emissions from Ships

The District has been working with a range of partners on a proposal to develop and implement a vessel speed reduction (VSR) incentive program along the California coast. The District estimates that a VSR program could significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide additional air quality and public health benefits by reducing emissions of particulates, air toxics, and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), an ozone-forming pollutant.

The District is currently pursuing funding a VSR program by using revenues from the state's Cap-and-Trade auction proceeds. In March the District submitted the VSR proposal to the California Air Resources Board, and several partners submitted comment letters supporting the idea, citing



*(From left) Carter Atkins of the Port of Los Angeles, District Director Dave Van Mullem, Bruce Anderson of Starcrest Consulting, Sean Hastings of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Brian Segee of the Environmental Defense Center, and Brian Shafritz, District Division Manager, at a meeting of the Marine Shipping Solutions Group at the District.*

the benefits for reduced pollution and enhanced protection of endangered whale species.

Over the past year, the District has hosted several meetings of

a Marine Shipping Solutions Group, featuring expert speakers on marine shipping issues. In February 2012, Lee Kindberg, Director of Environment and Sustainability for Maersk Line,

the world's largest container shipping line, shared insights and information from the shipping industry perspective. In August, scientist John Calambokidis shared his research on the behavior of blue whales around ships in the Santa Barbara Channel. In November, Bruce Anderson of Starcrest Consulting Group provided information on ports programs and international developments in shipping, and Carter Atkins of the Port of Los Angeles told the group about the successful VSR incentive program at the Port of LA.

For more information, see [www.OurAir.org/itg/shipemissions.htm](http://www.OurAir.org/itg/shipemissions.htm), and to be added to the Marine Shipping Solutions Group email list, contact Mary Byrd at [ByrdM@sbcapcd.org](mailto:ByrdM@sbcapcd.org).

## Janice Kettler Retires after 23 Years

Air Monitoring Specialist Janice Kettler retired from the District in January. She started in 1989 in the administrative section at a time when personal computers were being used more and more at the agency, and she had computer skills. She worked in billing for several years, and then after doing data review for monitoring sites, she took electronics courses, was trained to work on air monitoring instrumentation, and started to work in the air monitoring section. She remarked, "I really appreciate that the District was willing to train me, and promote me to a new position, to do work I really enjoyed."

She was inspired by early leaders and managers at the District, and

said, "I really liked being around people with a larger perspective on air pollution. It motivated me to work hard for cleaner air."

Kettler grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, and received a B.A. in Communication Arts from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. After working for five years in Madison, doing video production at a public television station, she moved to Los Angeles. She visited Santa Barbara on weekends, staying in touch with a former high school history teacher who had moved to Santa Barbara and owned an art gallery. The



*Janice Kettler in the District monitoring lab.*

connection resulted in a job at the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, and Kettler moved to Santa Barbara and worked at the Arts Commission for a year and a half before joining the District.

She noted, "There were so many changes during the time I

was at the District. Monitoring instrumentation was updated, and our Information Technology department worked well with our air monitoring needs. It made it possible to accomplish a lot in automating our equipment and systems."

She referred to many changes outside the District during this time as well, as state rules affecting vehicles and fuels helped in the progress towards cleaner air.

She is looking forward to traveling, and to spending more time working with community organizations. She remarked, "I won't miss the daily work, but I will always feel close to the mission."

## Janice Robinson Retires after 22 years

When Janice Robinson, District Accounts Specialist, joined the agency in February of 1991, there were 110 employees (compared with less than half that today), only about eight computers, and many accounting practices had yet to be created. She noted, "We were the groundbreakers, creating systems that we use today."

Robinson was born and raised in New York City, where she worked for nine years for a real estate firm that converted rental apartments to condos. She left that job for a very different one at the federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) agency supporting redevelopment efforts in New York neighborhoods.

She moved to Lompoc in September of 1990. When she started at the District early the following year she became a Clean Air Express bus commuter, and she has been one ever since. In 1991, there was limited service from Lompoc; today there are several trips and multiple stops.



Over the years she has made the time on the bus productive. "I've crocheted many baby blankets for grandchildren and great grandchildren, and friends' children and grandchildren - and I've read a lot of books," she said.

kids camping, and they loved it - and still love it," she remarked.

When she started at the District, she had never been camping. She noted, "Here I was, 40-some years old, and I was a New York girl, a city girl. I always thought, 'why would you want to sleep outside when you have a good bed at home?'" One of the District staff organized a camping trip to show the city girl the joys of camping, and more than half the employees attended. "We played softball during the day; people brought their kids, and their guitars, and played music at night. I had a wonderful time, and after that I started taking my

Working at the agency has raised her awareness of the green choices she can make in her own life. "I've found that making a difference starts with you. Years ago I learned about the environment in school. But I didn't know then that years later I would actually be working in an organization where I could be a part of making a difference," she said. She retired in March, and will miss the people at the District. She is looking forward to some adventures she has in mind as a bucket list. But she doesn't want to share the list just yet. She remarked, "I only plan to reveal what's on the list, as I accomplish it. I don't want people to talk me out of it."

### District Board Roundup

Following are the highlights of the October, December and January Board meetings.

#### October

- Authorized County Counsel on behalf of the APCD to join South Coast Air Quality Management District in a motion to intervene as parties in the case of the State of Alaska v. Hillary Rodham Clinton, in her capacity as United States Secretary of State, et. al. United States District Court for the District of Alaska.
- Executed District Grant Agreement for the City of Buellton in the Not-to-Exceed amount of \$19,726.05 for electric vehicle charging stations.
- Received report regarding Emission Reduction Credits.

#### December

- Executed District Grant Agreement for the University of California, Santa Barbara in the Not-to-Exceed amount of \$16,344 for electric vehicle charging stations.
- Received report on the Offsets Workgroup.
- Established cost effectiveness limit for District Moyer Program grant agreements as a Not-to-Exceed amount of \$17,080 per weighted ton of emissions reduced.
- Received a presentation acknowledging certification of the Air Pollution Control District's Santa Barbara office as a Green Business.
- Received briefing and provided input and comments on proposed division reorganizations.

- Authorized the Control Officer to execute the Memorandum of Understanding establishing a Guadalupe Oil Field Air Quality Mitigation Program.

- Adopted Resolutions of Appreciation to Joni Gray, Larry Lavagnino, Lupe Alvarez, Cecilia Martner, and Kathleen Reddington for their service on the District Board.

#### January

- Adopted revised class specifications entitled Division Manager and Administrative Manager and associated changes to District Classification and Salary Plan.
- Adopted Resolutions of Appreciation to Bob Thornburg and Janice Kettler upon their retirement.
- Selected Chair Richardson and Board members Sierra and Lavagnino to serve on the District Executive Committee in 2013, and selected Chair Richardson and Board members Wolf, Lavagnino, Aceves and Adam to serve on the Hearing Board Nominating Committee in 2013.
- Received and filed a report on Care for Our Earth grants to be announced at a Santa Barbara County Education Office event in February.
- Received and filed a report from the Air Pollution Control Officer regarding the status of Santa Barbara County air quality and District programs.

#### GO PAPERLESS!

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Santa Barbara County  
Air Pollution Control District

## Board of Directors

Supervisor Salud Carbajal

*First District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Supervisor Janet Wolf

*Second District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Supervisor Doreen Farr

*Third District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Supervisor Peter Adam

*Fourth District*

*Santa Barbara County*

Supervisor Steve Lavagnino

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*City of Santa Barbara*

Mayor Alice Patino

*City of Santa Maria*

Mayor Jim Richardson

*Chair*

*City of Solvang*

Mayor Roger Aceves

*City of Goleta*

## District Board Calendar

All meetings start at 1:00 p.m. For final meeting agendas, call Sara Hunt, 961-8853, or see [www.OurAir.org/apcd/agenda.htm](http://www.OurAir.org/apcd/agenda.htm).

### May 16

Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

### June 20

Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

### August 15

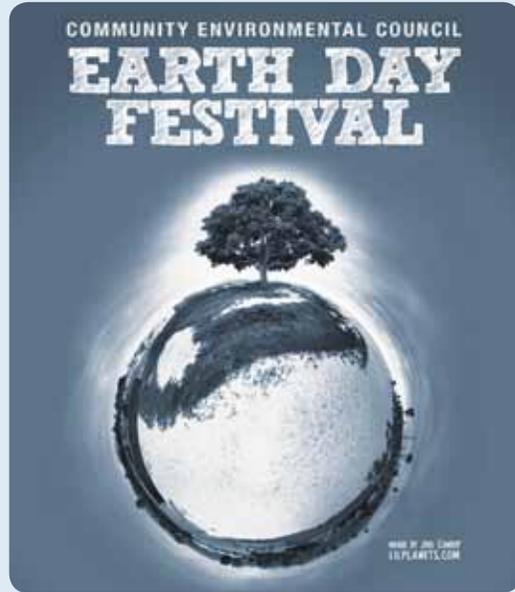
Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

### October 17

Board of Supervisors'  
Hearing Room  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

## Community Advisory Council

The APCD Community Advisory Council meets as needed at the Days Motor Inn in Buellton. The public is welcome. For more information, call Sara Hunt, 961-8853.



Earth Day is celebrated nationally on April 22 every year; local celebrations are held on different dates and at different locations around the county.

This year the Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival, organized by the Community Environmental Council, will be Saturday April 20 and Sunday April 21 at Alameda Park in Santa Barbara. Anyone coming to the Festival car free (arriving by bus or shuttle, on foot, or by bike, train, or other car free means) can stop by the District/Santa Barbara Car Free booth near the bike valet at the Festival, and enter to win prizes.

Prizes provided by Santa Barbara Car Free partners include: MTD 10-ride passes; family passes for the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and Santa Barbara Zoo; Santa Barbara Maritime Museum passes; passes for Jump on the Schoolbus trips to Cold Spring Tavern; one night's stay at the BEST WESTERN PLUS Pepper Tree Inn; pairs of Amtrak Pacific Surfliner® tickets; and a Grand Prize of round-trip tickets for two (roomette accommodations, meals included) from Santa Barbara to Portland or Seattle on the Amtrak Coast Starlight®.

*Santa Barbara Car Free is a cooperative partnership founded and led by the District for cleaner air and a healthier planet. For more information, see [www.SantaBarbaraCarFree.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraCarFree.org). For information on Earth Day events around the county, see [www.OurAir.org/apcd/earthday.htm](http://www.OurAir.org/apcd/earthday.htm).*



Santa Barbara County  
Air Pollution Control District

### Office

260 N. San Antonio Rd. Suite A  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1315

### Business Assistance

(805) 961-8868

### Daily Air Quality Report

[www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org)

### Complaints/Public Information

(805) 961-8800

### Air Quality Advisory Information

(805) 961-8802

### World Wide Web

[www.OurAir.org](http://www.OurAir.org)

*On the Air* is a quarterly newsletter written by Mary Byrd, published by the Community Programs Section of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District.



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## Green Business Certification for District

In February, the Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County held its annual event to honor Green Businesses from the previous year. The District was certified as a Green Business in November 2012, and was acknowledged at the event.

Jim Richardson, Mayor of Solvang and Chair of the District Board of Directors, said: "As a public agency with an environmentally-minded mission, we wanted to improve our own environmental stewardship at our office."

The District has supported the Green Business Program since its inception in 2008, and is part of the program's Steering Committee. The District was also a founding member of the Santa



(From left) Green Business Program Coordinator Frances Gilliland with District Director Dave Van Mullem and District Community Programs Supervisor Molly Pearson, at the recent event.

Barbara County Green Awards consortium that operated from 1994 through 2007.

Said District Director Dave Van Mullem, "As a regulatory agency, I believe that it is important for

us to show leadership in the greening of businesses. Since the program's inception we have participated as program partner and assisted in the review and certification of a variety of Santa Barbara County businesses. It was time for us to step up, do the work, and lead from the front."

To achieve the certification, District staff performed a comprehensive review of District operations, and made sure green practices were being followed in solid waste reduction, environmentally preferable purchasing, energy conservation, pollution prevention, water conservation, and employee transportation options.

*(continued on back)*

## Meet an Inspector: Matt Niro

*Fourth in a series*

Born and raised in Lompoc, District Inspector Matt Niro lives in Santa Barbara and inspects business in the southern portion of the county, focusing on smaller businesses such as gas stations or dry cleaners, and on businesses with equipment such as emergency generators. He is the District asbestos program manager, and also responds to complaint calls.

Complaints can include concerns about air pollution from a nearby business, or from a neighbor's activities. A common complaint in winter months is that a neighbor's fireplace is producing too much smoke. Said Niro, "In



*Matt Niro at a dry cleaning facility*

these cases it really comes down to neighbors working with each other. I try to get them to see both sides and come up with a solution if they can" – a technique that was passed on by other inspectors during his training.

Although Niro has been a District Inspector for only two years, he has already experienced some unusual inspection assignments. In August of 2011, he responded to calls about a strong smell from smoke in the Hope Ranch area of Santa Barbara. The smoke came from a fire burning inside a bluff. He remarked, "The theory was that a small rockslide or landslide had somehow ignited oil shale

inside the cliff." The property owner installed sprinklers to try to control the fire, but the fire continued to produce smoke from time to time for the next several weeks, as it burned deep inside the cliff. The smoke and smell could linger in the air under certain weather conditions, and Niro encouraged residents to keep doors and windows closed overnight.

Niro also responded to calls about a strong smell coming from the pond in the bird refuge in Santa Barbara. The smell was thought to be caused by algae growth, and the water was aerated to reduce the smell.

## Green Business Certification (cont'd)



*Aerators reduce faucet water use by 75%*

The District office in Santa Barbara is in the Casa Nueva building, which was designed with green architecture and landscaping, so the foundation for a green office was already there. But in taking a closer look, District staff targeted areas

that needed improvement, and made changes where warranted. For example, ultra-low flow aerators were installed on sink faucets to reduce water use, and a rain sensor was connected to irrigation equipment to prevent unnecessary watering. Green purchasing practices were implemented to increase the use of recycled-content materials and decrease consumption/disposal of single-use products. For each change that was implemented, careful consideration was given to the cost implications, and overall, the measures will likely result in reductions to the District's bottom line.



*The District offices are housed in the Casa Nueva Building, which has a number of green building features. The building is L-shaped to maximize natural day lighting. Outside, trellises with vines allow more sunlight in the winter months and provide more shade in summer months, and canvas banners block out summer sun and allow winter sunlight in.*

Richardson remarked, "As a partner in the Green Business Program, it has been a rewarding and educational experience for us to go through the checklist, and gain an increased appreciation for the effort it takes for businesses to become certified."

*For more information on the Green Business Program of Santa Barbara County, visit [www.greenbizsbc.org/](http://www.greenbizsbc.org/)*

## Meet an Inspector (cont'd)

Niro graduated in 2004 from UCSB (University of California at Santa Barbara) with a degree in Aquatic Biology. Before he joined the District, he worked at a medical device company and an environmental consulting firm, and in the family construction business.

He inspects gas stations annually, remarking, "With their high use, and higher risk of producing emissions, it's a priority to do these inspections every year." When Niro arrives, after introducing himself to the owner he looks at the equipment, checking for leaks, and then reviews the maintenance and testing records. Gas stations are required to do full Vapor Recovery System (VRS) testing on a regular basis. Niro remarked, "Lately I've been

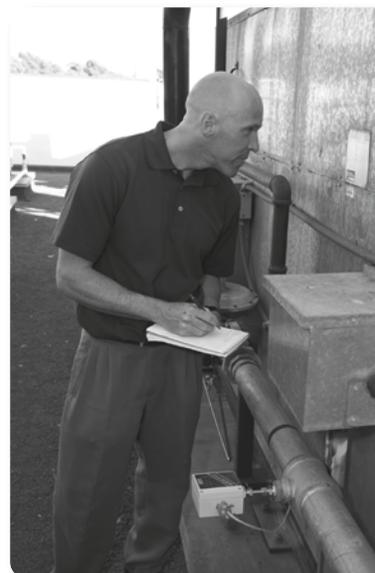
finding that stations are doing a good job with maintenance."

Niro is also notified about construction demolitions that could involve asbestos-containing materials, as part of federal requirements under NESHAPs (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants). His role is to make sure contractors perform a survey to determine whether asbestos-containing materials are present – and if they are present, to make sure rules are followed in handling the asbestos. He said, "The key is to keep it wet the whole time, so you keep the asbestos fibers from becoming airborne." (Most removals are also performed inside a full-containment enclosure.)

He emphasizes that, if possible, it's best to leave asbestos-containing materials in place. He noted, "There's no regulation that

says asbestos has to be removed if it can stay in place. That's best, as long as it's in good condition."

Niro likes biking to work, and enjoys rock climbing, surfing and snowboarding in his spare time. His varied background has suited him well to his work at the District. He remarked, "I'm a generalist here, I cover a lot of ground. And the variety is good. As an inspector, I get to get out and see different types of businesses. I'm not at a computer all day long. I like that."



*Niro inspects a boiler*